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from cherry gum, and the crystalline precipitate stained red with phloxin. It is not difficult to see that his evidence is hardly conclusive, since the material condensed is not known, and the product of the condensation is evidenced by the uncertainty of a stain. If, as seems probable, enzymes capable of condensing the simplex carbohydrates into more complex ones exist in plants, their demonstration and study is very important to plant physiology. There is need, however, of far more conclusive methods.—WM. CROCKER.

River dunes.—A study of the vegetation of the river dunes of Illinois by GLEASON⁵³ proves them to be very similar to those of Lake Michigan, although differing somewhat in the sand-binding plants that assist in their formation. These are notably *Ceanothus ovatus*, *Panicum virgatum*, and *Rhus canadensis*. The first forest stage is characterized by the dominance of *Quercus velutina*, with which is associated *Q. marilandica* in the Oquawka area. The underbrush in this forest consists almost entirely of young trees of the same species. The successional stages to the maple forest are suggested, and a more exhaustive treatment of the relation of the different associations promised for the near future.—GEO. D. FULLER.

Leaf position.—BÄSSLER investigated the effect of decapitation upon the position of adjacent leaves. He reports⁵⁴ that the youngest leaves react by erecting themselves more, unless a branch has already developed in the axil, in which case the branch erects itself. The closer the leaf to the cut, the more the erection, but wounding without decapitation has no effect. Light does not influence the reaction; gravity slows it. BÄSSLER was unable to determine or analyze further the cause of the reaction.—C. R. B.

Parthenocarp.—LONGO, in testing the effects of preventing pollination in diclinous flowers, found that a dozen flowers of *Diospyros virginiana* L., unpollinated, set fruit as well as the pollinated ones.⁵⁵ The fruits matured, but the seeds were merely coriaceous brown laminae, within whose seed coats was only the excessively developed tapetum of the embryo sac. *Diospyros Kaki* L. was already known to be parthenocarpic.—C. R. B.

⁵³ GLEASON, HENRY A., The vegetational history of a river dune. Trans. Ill. State Acad. Sci. 2:19-26. 1909.

⁵⁴ BÄSSLER, FRIEDRICH, Ueber den Einfluss des Dekapitierens auf die Richtung der Blätter an orthotropen Sprossen. Bot. Zeit. 67¹:67-91. 1909.

⁵⁵ LONGO, B., La partenocarpia nel *Diospyros virginiana* L. Rendic. R. Accad. Lincei, Cl. Sci. V. 18:632-635. fig. 1. 1909.